

Prices and Prospects.

Price Advance in Recent Contract Movement Was Largest Since World War

Gain 75 Cents in Less Than 30
Days; Turnover Fully
225,000 Tons.

\$4.00 WAS THE MAXIMUM

Which Has Become the Figure Buyers
Confront in All Quarters; Spot
Furnace Goes to \$3.50-\$3.75 in View
Of Limited Supplies; Coal Higher.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 10.—There has been no additional contracting for first quarter furnace coke since last report, which summarized one of the most remarkable movements in the history of the coke trade. Outside of the war period there could hardly be found a buying movement in which there was an advance of 75 cents in the contract price in the space of less than 30 days.

The turnover was fully 225,000 tons monthly, the initial price, at which something like half the tonnage was sold, being \$3.25. Then there were contracts successively at \$3.50, \$3.75 and \$4.00. In the summary a week ago it was stated that at least one contract was made at \$4.00. It has since been established definitely that two contracts, about 20,000 tons monthly, were closed at this figure. Inquiry was left for 30,000 to 35,000 tons monthly, but the prospective buyers were confronted in all quarters with quotations of \$4.00 and higher, whereupon they became less pressing and apparently they are now waiting developments, hoping that anything that turns up will be in their favor. This inquiry is from interests that are now consumers. Some additional inquiry may develop as idle furnace decide to blow in.

With the sales made, the principal producers, with plants in operation or in shape for immediate resumption, are very well sold up. Much of the idle capacity is at plants that have been inactive for such a length of time that it would require a month or two to get them into operation, and as shipments on a first quarter contract would begin in less than three weeks the operators feel that the price situation on a \$4.00 level is a very strong one.

At the time of the last Courier report it was not definitely known that any spot furnace coke had sold at above \$3.25, but it was plain that the offerings were almost nothing, and it seemed that the development of any inquiry of consequence would send the price up. Accordingly the spot market was quoted at \$3.25 to \$3.50 in every case. A little inquiry old developed, and \$3.35 was paid. Then, on Friday there were sales at \$3.50. One furnace interest, although requiring only about 1,000 tons altogether, had to buy from three different plants to get the quantity, paying \$3.50 for all. This week there has been some additional business done at \$3.50 and there have also been sales totaling well over 1,000 tons at \$3.65.

The advance, in face of relatively light demand, indicates how closely production has been adjusted to contract requirements as additional ovens were put in. Some operators have barely been able to meet their contract obligations and occasionally have been on the verge of buying to piece out.

While there is not much active inquiry for spot furnace coke there is believed to be most latent demand to be developed at a price of \$3.50. Consumers having contracts at \$3.50, not to speak of \$3.75 or \$4.00 for first quarter, would naturally buy a reserve at \$3.50 as that would be the total cost, while contracts contain the wage clause and a \$3.50 contract might mean considerably more on the actual settlement.

Spot furnace coke has been in light demand, and this has kept prices from advancing as they naturally would in sympathy with the stiffness in furnace coke. Ordinary brands are going at \$4.00 to \$4.50. There has been some contracting in these brands at \$4.50 and \$4.75 and some of the sellers are now asking 25 cents advance. Special brands have been bringing \$5.00 and higher for first quarter. The quotable market is as follows:

Spot furnace \$3.10-\$3.65
Contract furnace \$3.50
Spot foundry \$4.00-\$4.50

COKE FREIGHT MAP.

The freight rates on coke from the Connellsville district, which includes what is usually known as the Connellsville region (sometimes called the basin district) and the Lower Connellsville district (often called the Klondike and sometimes the Macdonald district) to principal points for shipment are as follows, per ton of 2,000 pounds, effective July 1, 1923:

Destination	Rate
Buffalo	2.25
Chicago	2.25
Cleveland	2.25
Detroit	2.25
East St. Louis	2.25
St. Louis	2.25
St. Paul	2.25
Minneapolis	2.25
Portland, Me.	2.25
Providence, R. I.	2.25
Rochester, N. Y.	2.25
Salt Lake City	2.25
San Francisco	2.25
Seattle	2.25
Spokane	2.25
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23,822 Lives Lost in Coal Mines of the United States In the 13 Years, 1911-1923

Coal Dust Responsible for Greater Part Declares Director Bain.

BUREAU OF MINES IN 1924

Made Active Effort to Increase Safety In All Mining Operations, Particularly the Introduction of Rock Drilling to Stop Spread Explosions.

Accidents in the coal mines of the United States, with their consequent train of deaths, injuries, and tremendous property losses, continue at a far too frequent rate despite the results of modern research which have demonstrated clearly the principal causes and definite means of minimization of such accidents, Director H. C. Bain of the Bureau of Mines, in his annual report to the secretary of the Interior.

For the 13 years, 1911 to 1923, inclusive, the bureau's records show 23,822 lives lost through all classes of accidents at bituminous mines in the United States. Explosions of gas and coal dust caused 3,185 deaths, or 13 per cent of the total. Most of the larger explosions were propagated through the mine workings by coal dust which and therefore the coal dust was responsible for the greater part of the loss of life. This extension of an explosion throughout a mine can be stopped even if all initial explosions are not prevented.

Despite the general good will of miners, mine operators, state inspectors, and manufacturers of explosives and machinery the tested recommendations of the bureau have not been adopted in the mines as rapidly or as broadly as is necessary if the loss of lives is to be stopped, the report declares. Consequently, although there has been real progress, as in the decreased loss of life due to accidents from explosives, the death rate from gas and dust explosions is now as great as ever. One case, Utah, following a mine disaster that caused the loss of 171 lives, has adopted every practical tested method of preventing or limiting gas and dust explosions, and is having these methods introduced in the mines as rapidly as possible. An active campaign of field demonstrations is necessary to bring home to those in other states the danger that has become so familiar as to be frequently overlooked and to show that effective precautionary methods are known and available.

The dominant features of the bureau's efforts during the year to increase safety in mining have been: The development of international cooperation with the Mines Department of Great Britain for research looking to the reduction of mine accidents; and intensive campaign for the adoption of rock drilling as a preventive of disastrous explosions in bituminous coal mines; and an extensive study relative to the safe use of electricity in coal mines.

The Bureau of Mines considers, had the coal mines of the country in past years followed the principle of rock drilling the mines as a means of preventing the spread of explosions, many large mine disasters would not have occurred and hundreds of lives could have been saved. In view of the large number of deaths from explosions during and since 1922, the bureau urges that the practice of rock drilling be adopted as soon as practicable in all bituminous mines in which dust constitutes a hazard.

Ever since its establishment, the bureau has strongly urged the use of "permittable" explosives in all coal mines where there is any hazard from gas and dust, and the amount of "permittable" used has steadily increased. However, while this increase has been steady, the replacement of other explosives by "permittable" has not been as rapid as it should be, in view of the known effectiveness and greater security of "permittables."

During the fiscal year the bureau studied the possibilities of radio as a means of establishing communication between miners in mine fires and explosions and rescue parties on the surface. The results give some promise of the possible development of a satisfactory system of communication through what is known as line-radio, which utilizes metal piping, wiring, car tracks, and other permanent metal equipment as carriers for the voices.

An energetic safety campaign in the oil industry has been instituted by the bureau, with the cooperation of producing companies. Metal mines in the United States have unsatisfactory ventilation, with the result that miners frequently work under unhealthy conditions that materially reduce efficiency. High temperature and humidity deplete the miner's strength and may undermine his health. Workers frequently breathe air containing much fine mineral dust, which is injurious to health. To remedy these conditions the Bureau of Mines has suggested the use of fans and blowers to insure pure air at working faces; and devices and methods to reduce air dustiness, such as wet drills and the sprinkling of mine workings and truck piles.

A lignite carbonizer recently designed by the bureau after extensive investigations should, it is believed, result in the ultimate solution of the tremendously important problem of economic utilization of the lignites

of the Northwest. These lignites comprise nearly one-third of the total solid fuel resources of the United States.

The use of cooling systems in vapor-light tanks in which crude oil is stored should check evaporation losses of gasoline, which amount annually to three or four per cent of the stocks accumulated during the winter season, and whose value runs into millions of dollars. Methods by which enormous volumes of gasoline now lost in the ordinary petroleum refining processes may be recovered by condensation of still vapors are outlined in reports recently published by the bureau.

A process for making sponge iron has been developed by the bureau. In undertaking this work, the object was to develop a process whereby sponge iron might be made cheaply for use as a metallurgical reagent, as, for example, for the precipitation of copper from its sulfate solutions. However, the development of a process by which sponge iron may be made cheaply from iron ore and low-grade coal and afterwards converted into iron and steel products by melting in the electric furnace would be especially important to the Pacific coast region of the United States, as that region is remote from the larger iron and steel making centers, but can use cheap electric energy instead of the expensive coke that would otherwise be necessary for iron and steel production.

A new experimental iron blast-furnace has been completed and blown in at Minneapolis, Minn. This furnace is an improvement on the former furnaces, as regards its mechanical features. It is expected that with this furnace it may be possible to conduct experiments and carry on investigation work which will give much valuable information, as regards the fundamental chemical reactions which govern the successful production of pig iron in the blast-furnace. Moreover, it is proposed to use the furnace in connection with experimental work on the production of spiegelron and ferromanganese from certain manganese iron ores whose smelting has offered difficulties. Since the United States has enormous reserves of these ores the problem of their successful smelting is of great importance to the iron industry.

A laboratory for radium research, with special reference to the study of the chemical effect of radium has been established in Washington. Important fuel economies in the operation of industrial kilns manufacturing brick, tile, and other heavy clay products have been made possible as the result of a study of the burning problems of such kilns.

At the request of the Commission of Gold and Silver Inquiry of the United States Senate, a study of the possibility of finding new uses for silver has been undertaken by the bureau. The purpose of the study is to increase the demand for the metal, and thereby aid the western silver mining industry, which has for some years past faced unfavorable economic conditions.

Labor Unions Are Growing in Japan

The most advanced progress in the matter of labor legislation and protective measures for the workmen is being made by Japan, according to the latest official reports filed by the Japanese government with the International Labor Bureau.

Efforts by the Japanese government for example to cut down child labor in the mines has met with unusual success. The latest statistics on this show a decrease of 36 per cent.

There has been an extensive increase in the labor union movement in Japan. So far this year 15 new general labor unions with 33 union branches and a total membership of 40,903, have been organized.

Workers in the leading Japanese naval yards have recently completed their union organization with a membership of over 47,000.

The General Federation of Japanese Labor, in addition to increasing its membership and branches throughout the empire, has also entered into friendly relations with the other big central organizations in Japan.

Lessons for Miners At Evening Classes

An unusual set of lessons for use by Pennsylvania coal miners attending evening classes has just been completed at Pennsylvania State College, under the direction of N. E. Hahnel, associate professor of industrial education. The aim of the lessons is to prepare ordinary miners to take state examinations for official positions in mine work. Separate sets are to be used in the bituminous and anthracite districts.

The course requires two years of weekly class attendance during the winter months. The lessons have been approved by the State Department of Mines and the State Department of Public Instruction.

One thousand six hundred miners were enrolled last year and this year the number will exceed 2,000. The lessons have been made available at cost to those who "cannot" attend school.

LIST OF COKE OVENS IN THE CONNELLSVILLE DISTRICT

With Their Owners, Address and Ovens in Blast Corrected to Saturday, December 6, 1924.

Ovens	In	Works	Name of Operator	Address
182	1	Beatty	MERCHANT OVENS	Greensburg
80	1	Brush Run	Mt. Pleasant Coke Co.	Mt. Pleasant
130	1	Clara	Clara Coke Co.	Greensburg
87	1	Carlson	Corrado-Schmuck Coke Co.	Connellsville
100	1	Elm Grove	W. J. Bailey, Inc.	Connellsville
24	1	Ferguson	Connellsville C. & C. Co.	Connellsville
50	1	Fort Hill	Corrado Coal Co.	New York
101	1	Gilmore	Gilmore Coke Co.	Uniontown
12	1	Grace	Corrado-Schmuck Coke Co.	Connellsville
145	1	Humphries	Humphreys Coal & Coke Co.	Greensburg
275	1	Mt. Braddock	W. J. Bailey, Inc.	New York
610	1	Mt. Pleasant	Mt. Pleasant Coke Co.	Greensburg
33	1	Myers	Brown Coal & Coke Co.	Uniontown
56	1	Neille	Neille Coke Co.	Connellsville
238	1	Oliver No. 1	Oliver & Snyder Steel Co.	Pittsburg
200	1	Oliver No. 2	Oliver & Snyder Steel Co.	Pittsburg
80	1	Paul	W. J. Bailey, Inc.	New York
33	1	Peerless	Mahoning Coal & Coke Co.	Connellsville
400	1	Revere	W. J. Bailey, Inc.	New York
40	1	Thomas	Whitely Coke Co.	Uniontown
33	1	West Penn	West Penn Coke Co.	Pittsburg
3,271	1,193			
250	1	Adelaide	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
303	1	Alvinton	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
397	1	Bagley	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
399	1	Baker	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
240	1	Brinkerton	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
259	1	Calumet	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
393	1	Central	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
400	1	Collier	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
490	1	Continental 1	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
515	1	Continental 2	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
560	1	Continental 3	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
120	1	Crossland	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
305	1	Davidson	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
430	1	Downing	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
272	1	Hecla No. 1	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
280	1	Hecla No. 2	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
330	1	Hecla No. 3	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
390	1	Hostetter	Hostetter-Civilis Coke Co.	Pittsburg
400	1	Hostetter	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
410	1	Hostetter	H. C. Frick Coke Co.	Pittsburg
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A MESSAGE TO ALL THE PEOPLE AS WELL AS TO CONGRESS.

A strikingly accurate estimate of the people, importance and character of President Coolidge's message to Congress is expressed by David Lawrence, Washington correspondent of The Courier, who says:

On the whole the message is the kind of document the great majority of people who supported Mr. Coolidge in the last election probably wish him to write: a message without radical departures from established policy, either at home or abroad, but with an emphasis on economy in government and the measures that must be taken for the improvement of the entire economic condition of the country.

Specifically, it ever, has a message, been more explicit in setting forth facts which will inform the members of Congress and the public at large concerning which both need to know, by the former as a guide to legislative action, by the latter as a means of keeping close check upon Congress in its interpretation of the public needs.

The chief note of the message, as was also of President Coolidge's campaign, is the necessity for a more genuine representation of the virtue which is the typical of sturdy and sturdy New England stock from which he is descended.

As Mr. Lawrence aptly puts it, "the word economy" occurs again and again in his message. He emphasizes it, reiterates it and drives it home as the independent issue of the hour. Tax reduction, properly said, is the general welfare all depend upon it.

Without being tiresome in presenting statistics contained in the Budget, estimated revenues and other facts relating to government finances, President Coolidge makes it the rule of the Budget. Congressmen ought to be able to understand that it is the rule of reason and common sense is not followed in making appropriations and expenditures in government.

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the whole country, hopes Congress will make it implied in the declaration, repeated frequently in his message: "I for economy."

The Budget was compiled with utmost care and with a view to limiting expenditures to reasonable requirements without impairing the efficiency of governmental departments. With the exception of Agriculture, Post Office and Justice, the proposed appropriations to the departments and bureaus were reduced in amounts ranging from \$6,014,000 to \$73,257,000, the total of the Budget being \$265,532,430 less than that for 1923. Only by following the recommendations of the Budget can Congress make reasonably certain the saving which can later be returned to the people through reductions in taxes.

The plain mandate of the people at the election was for Congress to practice real economy. Coolidge, with this mandate, not playing politics, is the course Congress must pursue.

DUMBAR'S GOOD LUCK AND OURS.

Encouraging as it is to note the steady increase in activity in the chief industry of the Conneltsville Region, through the firing-up of idle coke ovens, nothing is more gratifying to people of Dunbar and Conneltsville and vicinity than the announcement that the furnace plant in the former place is to again make its contribution to the prosperity of this section.

The financial difficulties in which this enterprise became entangled having been straightened out, the property purchased from the recovery and a new corporation formed, matters are now in such shape that work of overhauling the plant and putting it in tip-top running order can be entered upon shortly so that everything will be in readiness to resume full operation in the early spring.

This will be cheering news for the people of Dunbar who have suffered very considerable inconvenience due to the suspension of the town's principal industry and because of the protracted proceedings incident to the receivership of the American Manganese Manufacturing Company and the general depression in business, have at times feared the plant might never again be active.

Happily these fears are completely dispelled by the announcement that the plant is to be placed in first-class condition, that it will discontinue the manufacture of manganese from and return to the production of pig iron, for which the furnace was originally built and operated for many years.

The rehabilitation of the enterprise is proof of the faith of the people who have been identified with its management and will present them another opportunity to provide employment to a large number of men and to continue the very cordial relations which have existed between the employer and employees and the people of Dunbar. There is, therefore, no less occasion for congratulation than for rejoicing over the good luck of Dunbar, and the prospect that it is to again resume its importance as an industrial center, the benefits of which will reach out to and be shared by the people of Conneltsville.

EMPHASIZING OUR HOSPITAL NEEDS.

The announcement that one of the well-known members of the medical fraternity intends to remove to Conneltsville because of the lack of hospital facilities in Conneltsville, ought to direct still more thoughtful and serious attention to the situation by which we are confronted with respect to caring for the sick and injured.

Coming concurrently with the inauguration of a movement to organize a women's auxiliary to the Conneltsville Hospital Association, this announcement should be helpful in crystallizing public sentiment and in inducing everybody to ready and willing cooperation in whatever plans the association may, in due time, formulate.

Conneltsville will regret the loss of so useful and public spirited a citizen as Dr. Edie, but apparently it is part of the price we are having to pay for our inability to keep step with community needs in the matter of a modern hospital. Some compensation for our loss may come if it stimulates us to more energetic efforts and greater determination to carry the hospital proposition to a successful consummation.

THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW.

The statement of the community being so unanimously in support of the proposal to construct a stadium in James B. Hays Park, as a recreation center for everybody not alone for staging football and other outdoor sports, Ray E. B. Stevens gave advice when, in his address before the Rotary Club, he said: "The time to strike is now."

This public improvement, which should become one of the community's best assets, will not be brought to completion without systematic directed effort. An organization is needed as the instrument through which the people may give substantial expression of their interest and as an agency for supervising construction and subsequently managing the enterprise.

The enthusiasm evinced by the inauguration of the project ought not to be allowed to dissipate before definite action is taken in this direction. The original promoters very properly feel that having accomplished their purpose of arousing the underlying interest, they should now give way to an organization which will sustain a somewhat different relationship to the stadium from this time forward than was comprehended in the voluntary efforts of a group of individuals.

From several points of view, it would appear that the Alumni Association of the Conneltsville High School is the proper body to serve in the capacity indicated. It is true this organization has not functioned very actively

but perhaps that has been due to the fact that no undertaking has been suggested which is so closely allied to high school activities as a stadium.

In college the practice has been to create college associations, composed of alumni, the object of which is to promote activities in the student bodies. They have been phenomenally successful as a rule and the prominence of many institutions is very largely due to the sustained activity of their athletic associations.

It would seem to be entirely possible for similar results to be accomplished in Conneltsville. The alumni of our high school include many of the leading citizens who have been conspicuous in several forms of civic and community endeavor. Taking the stadium project in charge and carrying it to completion ought to be just the kind of an undertaking that would appeal to the alumni and challenge them to their best efforts in bringing new honors and glories to their alma mater.

If the time to strike is now, the alumni should take the leadership in the striking.

TEXTS FOR CONGRESS IN THE MESSAGE.

President Coolidge's message is full of pointed texts which are pertinent to such a study of public affairs as members of Congress need to make in order to legislate wisely and in the best interests of all the people.

When we urge delay in tax reduction until the effect of the recent law on revenues has been ascertained, we are giving Congress an opportunity to show to what extent it has been willing to heed the mandate of the people for continuing economy by keeping appropriations within the limits prescribed by the Budget. The surplus indicated for the next fiscal year is about \$67,000,000. Only by conservation of this surplus and any addition to it that may result from better business will a condition be created making further tax reduction possible.

The message makes a clear and sharp distinction between "tax reduction" and "tax reform." Congress can safely go ahead with the latter, in the direction of the removal of the inequities of the tax system and simplification of the methods by which the law is applied, after the operation of the present law is better known.

In the statement that "our domestic problems are for the most part economic," Congress is given a broad hint to eschew legislation presumed to have the virtue of serving as a panacea for our ills, and instead, to take such action as will facilitate the payment of our debts, diminish the high cost of government and lighten the burden of taxation.

With respect to farm relief Congress is advised to find out from the investigations of the Agricultural Commission precisely what is needed to be done in order to stimulate the free action of economic laws, rather than attempt a legislative cure-all.

In respect to the labor classes, the Transportation Act, President Coolidge points out to Congress the desirability of taking a middle ground between the labor groups which want controversies as to wages and working rules settled by boards of conciliation and voluntary arbitration, and the insistence of the railroads that, unless the existing law can be improved upon, no advantage can be gained by doing away with the Railroad Labor Board, particularly if the substitute does not provide for public representation on its membership.

In the matter of our foreign relations Congress is cautioned to avoid going to the extreme of preparedness which might be construed as an inclination toward militarism, as well as to avoid the temptation of "making advantage of all modern improvements for national defense."

The cause of world peace is to be advanced by our country having been "definitely committed to the new standard" of dealing with other nations through friendship and understanding.

In dealing with every matter of such public interest that it deserves official notice by the President and Congress, Mr. Coolidge has in each case given such a succinct statement of facts that Congress can make a wisely worded text as guide.

The country will wish with more than ordinary attention and interest to see how closely Congress adheres to these texts.

In manifesting such a lively interest in the proposal to organize an auxiliary to the Conneltsville Hospital Association, the women of the city have done precisely what it was confidently believed they would do. By their presence in large numbers at the meeting on Monday they gave renewed proof of their willingness to cooperate in the same fine spirit with which they labored together during the World War in a work to which the tender sympathies, the gentle touch and the natural aptitude of women peculiarly adapt them.

With the laying to rest today of the late Daniel C. Hood the last mark of respect to a much respected citizen has been paid. He will not pass out of the memory of his host of friends because his kindly qualities endeared him to all, while the length of days by which he was blessed brought him a distinction so rare that it may not be repeated in the lifetime of those who know and admired him.

The ladies aid societies have been one of the most helpful and efficient auxiliaries in the churches, as most male members will freely admit. Their brethren of the Conneltsville Hospital Association will have opportunity to make the same admission when the auxiliary to that organization begins to function.

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